

TRAFFIC COMMISSION
December 16, 2010 MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Burbank Traffic Commission was held in the Community Services Building, Community Room #104, 150 North Third Street, on the above date. Brian Malone, Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Members Present: Brian Malone, Chair
Paul McKenna, Jr., Vice Chair
Gregory Bragg
Rebecca Granite-Johnson
Barry Gussow
Robert Heins
David Justl
Joe Terranova

Members Absent: Ralph Herman

Staff Present: Ken Johnson—Traffic Engineering, Public Works
Sandy George—Recording Secretary, Public Works
Bonnie Teafor—Public Works Director
Rabie Rahmani—Principal Civil Engineer, Public Works
Rebekka Hosken—Administrative Analyst II, Public Works
Sgt. Kelly Frank—Police Department, Traffic
Terre Hirsch—License and Code
Rick Morillo—City Attorney's Office

I. FLAG SALUTE

II. ROLL CALL

III. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS: (Limited to items on the printed agenda or items regarding the business of the Traffic Commission)

A. Public Communication

Several members of the public were present and chose to talk during the item discussion of item VE.

LaVerne Thomas, a resident, chose to talk during the discussion of items VB and the Public Hearing, section VIA.

Leslie McNeal and Jim McNeal, both of Schaefer Ambulance Company, postponed their comments until the Public Hearing, section VIA.

B. Commission Member and School Subcommittee Communication

Mr. Bragg suggested adding an agenda item to discuss closing off pedestrian access on the west side of Magnolia Blvd at San Fernando Blvd.

Mr. Terranova and others asked that the future agenda item "Parking in Magnolia Park" be addressed soon by the Commission.

Mr. Gussow summarized the School Safety Subcommittee's recent school visits. The Subcommittee will present a written report with pictures to the Traffic Commission at the January meeting with suggestions for improving traffic safety.

C. Staff Communication

Mr. Johnson said City Council decided not to include the installation of sidewalks on Screenland Drive with the grant project, but they may bring the issue back for further discussion.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Terranova moved to discuss and approve the November 18, 2010 meeting minutes, seconded by Mr. Bragg. The meeting minutes, with the addition of suggested corrections made by Mr. Justl, were approved unanimously, Ms. Granite-Johnson and Mr. Gussow abstaining.

V. REPORTS

A. Verbal Taxicab Report (Hirsch)

Mr. Hirsch said 3 taxicab permit applications were received in the 2010 open enrollment period. The annual determination of taxicab Needs and Necessities is coming up in the spring. Currently, there are 130 taxicab licenses issued.

A recurring complaint received by License and Code is taxicab short-trip fares. Mr. Hirsch asked if the Traffic Commission would like to consider a taxicab minimum fare law. Mr. Terranova asked that the issues of flat fares and short-trip fares be added to an upcoming agenda.

Mr. Malone, Mr. Bragg, Mr. McKenna, Mr. Terranova, Mr. Heins, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Gussow, and Mr. Justl participated in the discussion.

B. Non-Emergency Medical Vehicle Transportation (Johnson)

Staff recommended that the Traffic Commission create a sub-committee to further study potential non-emergency medical transportation issues.

LaVerne Thomas, a resident, expressed concern that some businesses seem to be operating this type of transit service illegally from their homes, resulting in parking issues in the surrounding neighborhood. Ms. Thomas does not believe this issue should be included in the taxicab ordinance, but in a separate one.

Ms. Granite-Johnson, Mr. Terranova, and Mr. McKenna volunteered for the non-emergency medical vehicle transportation sub-committee. Mr. Gussow moved to appoint these Commission members to the sub-committee, to have them meet with Mr. Johnson, Mr. Hirsch, and Mr. Morillo in January to review the available regulations and to determine a process for developing a proposed ordinance for City Council consideration. Motion was seconded by Mr. Bragg, and passed with approval by all except for Mr. Justl.

Mr. Hirsch, Ms. Thomas, Mr. Malone, Mr. McKenna, Mr. Terranova, Ms. Granite-Johnson, Mr. Gussow, Mr. Bragg, and Mr. Justl participated in the discussion.

C. Traffic Signal Timing at Several Intersections (Johnson)

This was item postponed until a future meeting.

D. Fairview Street Parking Restrictions (Johnson) (Formerly item F)

Mr. McKenna moved to accept staff's recommendation that the Traffic Commission endorse the removal of the resident-only parking restrictions on Fairview, seconded by Ms. Granite-Johnson. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Malone, Ms. Granite-Johnson and Mr. McKenna participated in the discussion.

E. Burroughs Traffic Safety Requests (Rahmani) (Formerly item D)

Several members of the public voiced their support for installing stop signs at Clark Ave and Lamer St at Burroughs High School. These included Mr. Emilio Urioste, principal of Burroughs High School, Mr. Alan Nosgeryan, a Burroughs H.S. student and member of their Site Council, Mr. Michael Hastings, a Burroughs H.S. parent, Ms. Emily Gabel-Luddy, a member of the Burbank Sustainable Task Force, Mr. Kevin McCarney, a Burroughs H.S. parent, and Mr. Jef Vander Borcht, former mayor of Burbank and spouse of Burroughs H.S. employee.

Mr. Rahmani said staff researched this area last year in response to a request for a stop sign at Lamer and Clark, but he indicated the stop signs were not justified based on the data collected. Mr. Johnson indicated the City Council can direct the installation of stop signs, over the findings of staff. The Council's decision has some measure liability protection.

Mr. Bragg moved that the Traffic Commission recommend the installation of a 3-way stop at Lamer St and Clark Ave, seconded for discussion by Mr. McKenna. The motion did not pass, with 3 votes for the motion (Mr. Bragg, Mr. Heins and Mr. McKenna), and all else in attendance opposed.

Mr. Terranova left the meeting.

Mr. McKenna moved to make the following changes to the Burroughs H.S. area: 1) Update crosswalks making them "Zebra" crosswalks, 2) add truncated domes (if ADA approved), 3) make sure street lighting is sufficient, and 4) install mid-block amber flashing lights for both directions. This motion was seconded for discussion by Mr. Bragg, and passed with all present in favor, except for Mr. Justl.

Mr. McKenna left the meeting.

Mr. Urioste, Mr. Nosgeryan, Mr. Hastings, Ms. Gabel-Luddy, Mr. McCarney, Mr. Vander Borcht, Mr. Johnson, and all Traffic Commission members present participated in the discussion.

F. LNCV Status Report (Rahmani) (Formerly item E)

Mr. Rahmani gave February 1st, 2011, as the new “go-live” date when the new ePals permitting software would be implemented. Mr. Malone participated in the discussion.

VI. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. Request by Bowers Ambulance for Operating Permit (Johnson)

Bowers Ambulance was notified via mail of the Traffic Commission’s request for them to have a representative present at this meeting, but staff received no response.

Ms. LaVerne Thomas feels the current code should be changed (license for exceptions portion) because it cannot be adequately monitored or regulated.

Ms. Leslie McNeal and Mr. James McNeal both opposed approving Bowers’ application for operating in Burbank, since they have already been operating in the City while neglecting to obtain a permit beforehand.

Mr. Gussow moved to deny the application for Bowers, seconded by Mr. Heins. The motion was approved by all members present.

VII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

January

1. Verbal Taxicab Report (Monthly)
2. Report of the School Safety Subcommittee (December 2010)
3. Parking Concerns at Magnolia/Cordova area (December 2010)
4. Review of the 2011 Burbank Strategic Plan (December 2010)
5. Traffic Signal Timing (November 2010)
6. LNCV Status Report (Monthly)

February

1. Magnolia/San Fernando pedestrian crosswalk (December 2010)
2. Taxi Short Trip Fare Structure (December 2010)
3. Flat Taxi Fare Structure (December 2010)

Future Agendas

1. Parking in Magnolia Park (March 2009)
2. Commercial Vehicle Parking Restrictions (July 2008)
3. News Racks in Red Curb (Location Criteria and Number Allowed) (March 2010)
4. Traffic Calming (March 2008)
5. Status of Truck Routes in Burbank (June 2009)
6. Vehicles for Sale on Public Streets
7. LNCV Status Report (Monthly)
8. Requirements of New 2010 MUTCD (November 2010)

9. Options for crosswalk on Victory Blvd at California St (October 2010)
10. Modified Left Turn Signal Detection
11. LNCV Parking in Parks (November 2010)
12. Progress of the Olive Avenue Streetscape Project (March 2010)

School Safety Subcommittee (Mr. Gussow, Mr. McKenna, Mr. Bragg, Mr. Heins-advisor)

1. Parking Near Schools at Dismissal Time on Street Sweeper Day (June 2009)
2. Bicycle Helmet Education (September 2009)
3. Edison Parking Issues
4. Burroughs Traffic Issues
5. Lincoln Street Traffic

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Bragg moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:45pm, seconded by Mr. Gussow. The motion was approved by all present. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Thursday, January 27th, 2011, at 4:00pm in the City Hall Council Chambers, 275 E Olive Ave, Burbank CA.

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Johnson, Traffic Engineer
KJ: smg